

Date:

April 14, 2004

Reference # New Request:**Staff Contact:**

Judy Weiss, Parks and Recreation Director

Reference # Trade-off, if applicable:**From Department or Gen Govt Area:**

Community Services

Reason for Request (growth, council directive/priority):

Citizen request

Program Name(s):

Maintenance of School District Sports Fields

Center Number(s):

05929

Subject (Abbrev. Request):

City of Scottsdale support of maintenance on School District youth sports fields; additional field sites; fees/no fee.

Description of Request:**Background:**

At the beginning of FY 2003/04, the City of Scottsdale implemented a Youth Sports Field Maintenance pilot program to provide maintenance on six selected Scottsdale School District youth sports fields – Supai, Pima, Mohave, Cochise, Cocopah, and Laguna. Nine months after implementation, there is consensus that field conditions at the six fields have improved significantly in terms of both safety and playability. City crews have visited each of the fields five times and have performed fertilization, aeration, laser grading, and field geometry on all six fields. The Scottsdale School District has been mowing and watering these fields.

To offset the costs of the Youth Sports Field Maintenance program, a three dollar (\$3.00) per hour maintenance fee was established at the start of FY 2003/04. This follows both a national and local trend of charging user fees to youth organizations that utilize municipal and school facilities. For example, the City of Glendale charges youth groups five dollars (\$5.00) per hour for use of fields. The City of Chandler also charges youth groups five dollars (\$5.00) per hour for field usage and an additional twelve dollars (\$12.00) for lights. The Town of Gilbert also charges a fee for use of lights.

One of the benefits that has become evident with this fee-based program is that leagues and teams are requesting field usage for only time that is needed. While 80,000 hours was requested last year with no fee, 45,000 hours have been requested this year to date, which has freed up fields for additional use by others that otherwise would have not been able to utilize these fields.

Revenues collected from the Youth Sports Field Maintenance program fee are deposited into a special revenue account that is restricted to covering the field maintenance costs of this program. To initiate the program for FY 2003/04, the program costs were 100 percent funded from the Partnership Funding Account.

Success of this program has led to requests for additional Scottsdale School District school sites in need of maintenance to be added to this program – Sequoia, Cheyenne, Pueblo and Navajo Elementary Schools.

Costs:

Total program costs for the six school sites in FY 2003/04 are estimated at \$125,000. With an average cost of approximately \$20,000 per school site, adding four more school sites will result in total program costs of approximately \$200,000 for the ten school sites in FY 2004/05.

Total FY 2003/04 revenues from the three dollar (\$3.00) per hour maintenance fee are conservatively estimated to be at \$100,000 by fiscal year-end. Adding four more field sites in FY 2004/05 will result in added hours and increased revenues, conservatively projected at \$160,000 in FY 2004/05.

Options to fund this program:

Option A: Add the four school sites and eliminate the three dollar (\$3.00) per hour fee.

For FY 2004/05, 100 percent of the revenue collected in FY 2003/04 (estimate at \$100,000) would be applied to the \$200,000 estimated cost of the FY2004/05 program. The remaining program costs of \$100,000 would be funded from the Partnership Funding Account balance. This option results in an estimated zero dollar (\$0.00) impact to the General Fund in FY 2004/05 only. Subsequent to FY 2004/05, ongoing funding under this option will be subject to General Fund funding availability and Council approval.

Long-term Funding Impact: If the fee is eliminated and should Council opt to continue the Youth Sports Field Maintenance program beyond FY 2004/05, the \$200,000 estimated annual cost of the program would be 100.0 percent subsidized by General Fund dollars in subsequent years.

Option B (this option is currently included in Proposed FY 2004/05 budget): Add the four school sites and reduce the three dollar (\$3.00) per hour fee to two dollars (\$2.00) per hour.

For FY 2004/05, 100.0 percent of the revenue collected in FY 2003/04 (estimate at \$100,000) would be applied to the \$200,000 estimated cost of the FY 2004/05 program. The remaining program costs of \$100,000 would be funded from the two dollar (\$2.00) per hour fee revenue collected in FY 2004/05. With additional hours from the four added fields, revenues collected in FY 2004/05 are conservatively estimated at \$107,000. This option results in an estimated zero dollar (\$0.00) impact to the General Fund in FY 2004/05. The remaining \$7,000 in unspent revenues from FY 2004/05 would be carried forward to help offset future program funding shortfalls, should Council opt to continue the program in subsequent years.

Long-term Funding Impact: Should Council opt to continue the Youth Sports Field Maintenance program beyond FY 2004/05, the \$200,000 estimated annual cost of this program would be partially offset by an estimated \$107,000 in annual revenue from the reduced two dollar (\$2.00) per hour fee. This eventually will result in approximately \$93,000 in unfunded annual program costs that would be subsidized by General Fund dollars in subsequent years.

Option C: Add the four school sites and maintain the three dollars (\$3.00) per hour fee.

For FY 2004/05, 100.0 percent of the revenue collected in FY 2003/04 (estimated at \$100,000) would be applied to the \$200,000 estimated cost of the FY 2004/05 program. The remaining program costs of \$100,000 would be funded from the three dollar (\$3.00) per hour fee revenue collected in FY 2004/05. With additional hours from the four added fields, revenues collected in FY 2004/05 are conservatively estimated at \$160,000. This option results in an estimated zero dollar (\$0.00) impact to the General Fund in FY 2004/05. The remaining \$60,000 in unspent revenues from FY 2004/05 would be carried forward to help offset future program funding shortfalls, should Council opt to continue the program in subsequent years.

Long-term Funding Impact: Should Council opt to continue the Youth Sports Field Maintenance program beyond FY 2004/05, the \$200,000 estimated annual cost of this program would be partially offset by an estimated \$160,000 in annual revenue from the three dollar (\$3.00) per hour fee. This will result in approximately \$40,000 in unfunded annual program costs that would be subsidized by General Fund dollars in subsequent years.

Option D: Eliminate the Youth Sports Field Maintenance pilot program.

Although the City would still schedule the fields that are included in previous IGA's with the School District, there would be no fee charged, and the youth sports groups and the School District would be responsible for the maintenance and seasonal rehabilitation of youth sports facilities on school property.

Impact:

There is no estimated impact to the General Fund in FY 2004/05 for Options A, B, or C. Should the Youth Sports Field Maintenance program be continued past FY 2004/05, the eventual estimated impact on the General Fund is \$200,000 for Option A, \$93,000 for Option B, and \$40,000 for Option C. (Refer to attached table for detailed funding analysis.)

Other Issues:

Scheduling: Master scheduling by City staff of all school and park facilities used by youth sports groups is the most efficient method for equitable allocation. Whether a fee is charged or not, staff allocation based on City Council approved criteria is key because of the tremendous quantity and diversity of requests for limited facilities. A decentralized methodology would cause confusion, conflict and inconsistent application of many different policies. With additional fields to maintain, the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Scottsdale School District will be amended to include scheduling of all fields upon which the City is conducting maintenance activities.

Youth Sports Field Maintenance Program Funding Analysis

	FY 2004/05	FY 2005/06	FY 2006/07	FY 2007/08	FY 2008/09
Option A - Add 4 Fields & Eliminate Fee					
<u>Sources of Funds:</u>					
Prior-year Revenue Carry-forward	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Current Year Fee Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Partnership Funding Account	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Sources of Funds	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Estimated Program Cost ⁽¹⁾	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Revenues Above/(Below) Program Costs ⁽²⁾	\$ -	\$ (200,000)	\$ (200,000)	\$ (200,000)	\$ (200,000)
Option B - Add 4 Fields & Reduce Fee to \$2.00/hr					
<u>Sources of Funds:</u>					
Prior-year Revenue Carry-forward	\$ 100,000	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Current Year Fee Revenues ⁽³⁾	\$ 107,000	\$ 107,000	\$ 107,000	\$ 107,000	\$ 107,000
Partnership Funding Account	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Sources of Funds	\$ 207,000	\$ 114,000	\$ 107,000	\$ 107,000	\$ 107,000
Estimated Program Cost ⁽¹⁾	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Revenues Above/(Below) Program Costs ⁽²⁾	\$ 7,000	\$ (86,000)	\$ (93,000)	\$ (93,000)	\$ (93,000)
Option C - Add 4 Fields & Keep \$3.00/hr Fee					
<u>Sources of Funds:</u>					
Prior-year Revenue Carry-forward	\$ 100,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -
Current Year Fee Revenues ⁽³⁾	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000
Partnership Funding Account	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Sources of Funds	\$ 260,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000
Estimated Program Cost ⁽¹⁾	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Revenues Above/(Below) Program Costs ⁽²⁾	\$ 60,000	\$ 20,000	\$ (20,000)	\$ (40,000)	\$ (40,000)

Notes:

⁽¹⁾ Program costs estimated at approximately \$20,000 per school site. Six school sites received program services in FY 2003/04 at an estimated cost of \$125,000. An additional four school sites are scheduled to be added in FY 2004/05 for total estimated program costs of approximately \$200,000 in FY 2004/05.

⁽²⁾ Shortfalls in funding will result in General Fund subsidy to cover program costs.

⁽³⁾ Increase in FY 2004/05 revenues due to added hours from additional four school fields.